

NEWS



TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD

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News Release

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**PAPER ANALYZING URBAN DRIVEWAY DESIGN DEMANDS TO
PROVIDE ADEQUATE SIGHT DISTANCE
WINS TRB'S K. B. WOODS AWARD**

“*Balancing Urban Driveway Design Demands Based on Stopping Sight Distance*” earned the Transportation Research Board’s (TRB’s) K. B. Woods Award for its authors Karen Dixon, Ida van Schalkwyk, and Robert Layton, all of Oregon State University. The award for the winning paper, which will be published in the *Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board*, No. 2120, will be presented on January 11, 2010, at the Thomas B. Deen Distinguished Lecture and Presentation of Outstanding Paper Awards during the Board’s 89th Annual Meeting. The K. B. Woods Award, given annually for the best paper in the area of design and construction of transportation facilities, honors the 19th Chairman of the Board’s Executive Committee.

The award-winning paper analyzes appropriate design geometrics to provide adequate sight distance for safety at driveways, with and without bicycle lanes, and also investigates the type and nature of collision impacts as they relate to pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers. Analysis results demonstrate the value of bicycle lanes in providing enhanced sight distance. The authors also recommend that agencies, for safety reasons, consider excluding on-street parking on roads

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with bike lanes when speeds exceed 30 mph so as to provide adequate sight distance without creating sporadic on-street parking spacing. Roads that do not have bike lanes should exclude on-street parking when speeds exceed 25 mph.

Karen Dixon is an Associate Professor of Civil & Construction Engineering at the Oregon State University. Prior to that, she served as an Associate Professor at the Georgia Institute of Technology. A registered professional engineer in the states of Texas, Arizona, and Georgia, Dixon has over 10 years experience in the private sector as a practicing civil engineer. During that time, she designed a wide variety of transportation facilities ranging from low-speed local streets to high-speed freeway interchanges. Her research and teaching focus is on the operational and safety effects of transportation design improvements. Dixon is a member of the TRB *Geometric Design Committee* and a member of the *Task Force on the Development of the Highway Safety Manual*, where she serves as chair of their research subcommittee. She holds a B.S. degree from Texas A&M University, an MCE and a Ph.D., both from North Carolina State University.

Ida van Schalkwyk is a Senior Assistant Research Professor at Oregon State University. Her current research and teaching focus is on transportation safety and operations. van Schalkwyk has over 17 years experience in research and transportation engineering. Prior to joining the Oregon State University, van Schalkwyk was a faculty associate at Arizona State University, a researcher at the Texas Transportation Institute, a lecturer at the Rand Afrikaans University in Johannesburg, and a traffic engineering consultant for numerous private and government entities in South Africa. Active in TRB, van Schalkwyk currently chairs the NCHRP Project Panel on Production of the First Edition of the Highway Safety Manual. She was co-author of the first edition of the South African Road Safety Manual, a guideline document for road safety engineering in South Africa. van Schalkwyk holds a Ph.D. in civil engineering from Arizona State University and a B.Engineering (civil), M. Engineering (transportation) from the University of Pretoria in South Africa.

Robert Layton is a Professor Emeritus for Oregon State University. He started his career working for the Department of Public Works in Watertown, New York, and later for the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, and Topeka, Kansas. Layton also served as an Assistant Professor and Lecturer at the University of California Berkeley. His research focused on transportation for resource development, low volume roads, highway safety and access management. A major focus of his career was the development and instruction of workshops on traffic safety, highway design, traffic operating, and access management. Layton holds a B.S. in civil engineering from Colorado State University, an M.S. in civil engineering from Kansas State University, and a Ph.D. in transportation engineering from the University of California, Berkeley.

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More than 10,000 policy makers, administrators, practitioners, researchers, and representatives of government, industry, and academic institutions are expected to attend the Transportation Research Board (TRB) 89th Annual Meeting, in Washington, DC, January 10-14, 2010. The meeting, held at the Marriott Wardman Park, Omni Shoreham, and Hilton Washington hotels, includes more than 3,000 presentations in 600 sessions and workshops covering all aspects of transportation.

The mission of the Transportation Research Board is to provide leadership in transportation innovation and progress through research and information exchange, conducted within a setting that is objective, interdisciplinary, and multimodal. TRB facilitates the sharing of information on transportation practice and policy by researchers and practitioners; stimulates research and offers research management services that promote technical excellence; provides expert advice on transportation policy and programs; and disseminates research results broadly and encourages their implementation. A major focal point of TRB's activities, the Annual Meeting provides an opportunity for transportation professionals from all over the world to exchange information of common interest.

Organized in 1920, TRB is a division of the National Academies, which include the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, Institute of Medicine, and National Research Council. The nation turns to the National Academies for independent, objective advice on issues that affect people's lives worldwide.

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